

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An insert for use as a mold component in the manufacture of a molded article, the molded article having a structural feature on a surface thereof, the insert being sized and dimensioned to fit within a recess in the mold, the insert comprising  
  
a first surface having an area thereon that is a complement of the structural feature on the molded article, and  
  
means for mounting said insert in said recess on an inner surface of said mold.
2. The insert of claim 1 wherein said mounting means comprises one or more projections adapted to fit within corresponding depressions in the inner surface of the mold cavity.
3. The insert of claim 2 wherein said one or more projections comprise apertures for receiving means for fastening said mold insert to said mold.
4. The insert of claim 3 wherein said apertures in said one or more projections comprise a recessed region for receiving an end of said fastening means, such that the end of said fastening means is recessed with respect to the front surface of said projections when said insert is fastened to the inner surface of the mold.
5. The insert of claim 4 wherein further means for providing a substantially smooth surface over said recessed region of said aperture.
6. The insert of claim 5 wherein said means for providing a substantially smooth surface comprises a cap that fits within said aperture in front of the end of the fastening means.
7. The insert of claim 6 wherein said cap comprises a removal appendage or the front surface thereof.
8. The insert of claim 1 wherein said mounting means comprises one or more retaining surfaces, said insert further comprising one or more retaining means that engage said one or more retaining surfaces.

9. The insert of claim 8 wherein said one or more retaining surfaces comprises a shoulder extending from a side of said mold insert, and said one or more retaining means comprises a retaining block having a surface that engages said shoulder.
10. The insert of claim 9 wherein said retaining block comprises one or more apertures for receiving a means for fastening said retaining block to said mold.
11. A mold for use in the manufacture of a molded article, said mold having an inner surface defining a cavity in which said molded article is formed, said inner surface having a recess adapted for receiving a mold insert.
12. The mold of claim 11 further comprising means on said inner surface of said mold cavity for receiving means for mounting said insert thereto.
13. The mold of claim 12 wherein the mounting means comprises one or more projections extending from the mold insert, and said receiving means comprises one or more depressions in said inner surface of said mold cavity, said depressions adapted to receive said projections.
14. A mold insert for use in a mold for molding an article having a structural feature on its surface, the mold having an inner surface that defines a cavity in which said molded article is formed, said inner surface having a recess therein, said mold insert being sized and dimensioned to fit within said recess, said mold insert having a first surface for forming said structural feature on the surface of the molded article, said mold insert comprising means for mounting said insert on said inner surface of said mold.

15. The mold insert of claim 14 wherein said mounting means comprises one or more projections extending from said mold insert and adapted to be received within one or more corresponding depressions in the inner surface of said mold.
16. The mold insert of claim 15 wherein said one or more projections comprise means for receiving a fastening means.
17. The mold insert of claim 16 wherein said means for receiving a fastening means is one or more apertures.
18. The mold insert of claim 14 wherein said first surface of said mold insert is substantially contiguous with the inner surface of the mold when the insert is mounted on said inner surface of the mold.
19. The mold insert of claim 14 wherein said first surface for forming said structural feature comprises a plurality of hook-shaped cavities, said plurality of hook-shaped cavities forming a field of integrally molded hooks on a surface of the molded article.
20. The mold insert of claim 19 wherein said mold insert comprises a plurality of plates, each plate having a side edge, said plates being stacked together, with said side edges defining at least a portion of said first surface of said mold insert, said hook-shaped cavities being formed in said side edges.
21. The mold insert of claim 20 further including one or more spacer plates positioned between said hook-cavity plates, such that said field of integrally molded hooks on a surface of the molded article will be an array of spaced rows of hooks.